

Message Text

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71- 60

ACTION SAM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 /033 W

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R 101356Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8937

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4934

SECDEF FOR SECRETARY ELLSWORTH FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

SECSTATE FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJ: MAAG TERMINATION AND SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION

1. DEAR BOB: ON RETURN TO THE HAGUE FROM VACATION HAVE JUST FOUND SERIOUS SITUATION INVOLVING MAAG, WHICH CAN REFLECT ADVERSELY UPON EMBASSY, DOD AND USG, DESPITE VALIANT EFFORTS OF MAAG CHIEF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO TERMINATE MAAG AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND DOD ORDERS, MISSION LACKS ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ENABLING IT TO TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO WIND UP MAAG AND ESTABLISH FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATION. RESULT IS GROWING DETERIORATION IN MORALE OF MAAG PERSONNEL, BOTH AMERICAN AND DUTCH.

2. DUTCH MOD IS ALSO CONCERNED BY UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION. THE LONGER IT PREVAILS, EFFECTIVENESS AND PRESTIGE OF WHATEVER NEW US MILITARY PRESENCE IS ESTABLISHED HERE WILL BE PREJUDICED. GIVEN IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO F-16 PROGRAM, AS WELL AS OTHER MILITARY OBJECTIVES, I CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM MAAG TO SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION, AND URGE THAT IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO MATTER. EMBASSY IS MORE THAN WILLING TO COOPERATE AND TO THIS END HAS ALLOCATED OFFICE SPACE AT CHANCERY. WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO EXTEND OTHER CONCRETE AND CONCEPTUAL ASSISTANCE.

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BEFORE WE CAN EFFECTIVELY PROCEED, HOWEVER, MAAG CHIEF MUST

HAVE SPECIFIC ORDERS AS TO MISSION, TABLE OF ORGANIZATION
AND FUNDING OF FOLLOW-ON ENTITY AND HOW SPECIFICALLY TO WIND
DOWN PRESENT MAAG ESTABLISHMENT.

3. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU EARLY OCTOBER ON MY PERMANENT
RETURN TO STATES.
GOULD

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NNN

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